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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS \$544,000 TO THE LAKE PALO PINTO AREA WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

PALO PINTO, TEXAS, **May 26, 2005** – Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today that the Lake Palo Pinto Area Water Supply Corporation was awarded \$544,000 through the agency's Community Programs Water and Waste Disposal loan and grant program. The funds will be used to improve their existing water supply system by constructing a 75,000 and a 4,300 gallon ground water storage tank. To highlight this event, a ceremonial check will be presented to Mr. Charles Sims, President of Lake Palo Pinto Area Water Supply Corporation.

"The funds we are awarding to the Lake Palo Pinto Area Water Supply Corporation will help 475 households in Palo Pinto County," said Daniel. "USDA Rural Development is committed to providing rural communities with the resources they need to ensure safe and dependable drinking water for their residents."

USDA Rural Development's water and wastewater program is designed to bring fresh, clean drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound sewage facilities to rural America's 53 million residents. Loans and grants are available to rural communities with fewer than 10,000 residents. Public bodies, corporations operating on a non-profit basis and Indian tribes that are unable to obtain credit from other sources at reasonable rates and terms, are eligible for assistance.

USDA Rural Development's community programs enhance the quality of life for rural Texans by funding new and improved water and wastewater facilities, providing funds to governmental entities, non-profit organizations and Indian Tribes to enlarge, improve or construct schools, libraries, medical clinics, assisted living centers, public buildings, community centers.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 with a mission to use our resources to help enhance the quality of life for the nation's rural residents. For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Cleburne office at (817) 641-4481, Ext. 4 or visit our website at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/.

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